

**STATE SENATOR • DEBORAH CHERRY • 26TH DISTRICT**

# **Cherry Press Release**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
April 18, 2005

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## **Cherry to Congress: Reverse Plans to Cut Education Aid Programs**

LANSING –State Senator Deborah Cherry (D-Burton) is fighting for the education of 75,000 Michigan students who face substantial decreases in financial support if Congress approves President Bush’s plan to make deep cuts in the Pell Grant and Perkins Loan programs

In two separate Senate Resolutions, Sen. Cherry has urged Congress not to abandon students who are pursuing the American dream of earning an education. The majority of grant and loan recipients hail from low-income and working class families who have limited means to finance their educations.

“When we reduce the likelihood of a student completing his or her education, we lessen the opportunity of America to function at its fullest potential,” Sen. Cherry said. “It’s unfair to admonish students to seek higher education and then destroy their chances of meeting their goal.”

Senate Resolution 10 asks Congress to reverse planned cuts to the Pell Grant program that currently helps educate 5.1 million students nationwide – nearly one-third of all Americans in college. Senate Resolution 22 implores Congress to maintain the Perkins Loan program as it has served 675,000 students in 2004 and is a critical program for middle-class students who do not qualify for need-based grants.

The cuts to both programs would affect about 1.3 million students nationwide. Nearly 90,000 students, across the country, would receive no money at all.

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*Sen. Deborah Cherry is a first-term Democrat from Burton, Michigan. She serves on the Senate Appropriations Committee, where she sits on the Higher Education, Department of Community Health, Department of Natural Resources and Capital Outlay subcommittees*